MAR 1 5 2005

n the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:

Hallowitz

Group:

1648

Serial No.: Filed:

09/893,604 June 29, 2001 Paper No.: Examiner:

Parkin, Jeffrey S.

AF 14:08

For:

Methods for characterizing the viral infectivity status of a host

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop AF P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to 1/25/2005 Office Action

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed 1/25/2005, and submits the following in complete response thereto, and requests reconsideration of the Claims presented.

This Response:

Amends Claims 1, 8, and 11 as required in the Office Action;

Cancels Claim 17;

Requests reconsideration of the finality of the Office Action;

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Summarizes the telephone interview of 3/8/2005.

Fee.

After this amendment, there are 3 independent claims and 16 total claims. Applicant previously paid for 3 independent claims and 20 dependent claims. Accordingly, there is no fee due for additional claims.

This amendment and response is filed within two months of the mailing of the Office Action. Accordingly, no extension fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 11, 2005

date

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 11, 2005

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